

**FIRST**  
COMICS  
DELUXE SERIES

JAN. \$1.75  
NO. 19  
\$2.45 CANADA

# BADGER



W\* K\* E\* N\* H\* O\* L\* D\* 4\* 86



# Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS  
435 N. LASALLE  
CHICAGO IL  
60610

Dear Fred:

I'm sorry you're dead, but I am very pleased with "Search for the Snowman" (Badger #16). Mike's script was great. Bill's pencils were great. Rick's inks were great. Linda's colors were great. And, the other Rick's questions were great (whatever they were).

Oh, Norbert's snow suit was... cool! Thought I was gonna say "great" again, didn't you, you un-great-ful Larry!

Jeff Earls  
540 Highland Ave.  
Dunedin, FL

Dear Larry:

When I picked up Badger #16, I was surprised to see his new costume. That's the fourth one I've counted since issue #1. Where does he get all these get-ups? Does he sew them himself? Speaking of costumes, where can I get a Badger t-shirt?

Robert Kuhl  
2629 S. 29th St.  
La Crosse, WI 54601

Ask your local retailer. If he doesn't have any, complain.

Yo, Larry:

Let me start by saying I really enjoy the Badger along with Nexus and many other First titles. So, I'm glad Badger went monthly. Now we all get to read forty pages of Badger when before we only had twenty-eight, and yeah, he's got a big stick. However, somehow eight pages of Zoomtown managed to find itself in the back of each issue, wasting eight pages of each issue. Then when I read Badger #15 and found out you were getting rid of Zoomtown, I wondered why it had taken you so long to come to your senses. I thought we might be getting twenty pages of Badger each month for \$1.25. I thought we're getting a new, high quality back-up feature. But then, I bought Badger #16 and much to my horror I found Clonezone was to be the new back-up feature. Why are you taking Clonezone, which has failed miserably in Nexus, and putting it in the Badger where it will only continue to waste eight pages and fail again?

William "T.C." Hladio  
18409 May St.  
Homewood, IL 60430

Because 'Zone's got the key to our office men's room, and he'll only let us use it as long as we guarantee him a back-up slot. Besides, some people actually like him...

Sirs:

We were quite relieved when Nexus #24 revealed that the 'Zoner was safe.

He is my three-year-old son's favorite C.B. character, with Judah running second. PK's favorite Nexus ish to date was #17, where the spotlight was on Judah and Clonezone. So, don't ever let those humorless whiners run Clonezone outta the First Universe.

Monica Sharp  
Box 95  
Holtville, CA 92250

Finally, someone with class and dignity! Just one question though: what is a "C.B. character"?

Dear Larry:

The Butler is back! But is the Rude gone? But would I rather have Butler? But will Rude still do the covers? Will Butler be staying? Will Rude do the back-ups? Yow! Now I know what feels like to have a split personality!

Can you employ both of these excellent, but different artists and not make me choose which one I like better?

And Larry, I don't like the way this plot is looking!

First, I don't believe for a moment the Yak is dead. Well, dead maybe, but not gone. After all, a certain other comic character, whose name I won't mention, came back from the dead not once but twice because the fans made enough of an outcry.



And then there's this bit about Badger going back on his word and wiping out about two dozen (BOB) lackeys. Sure, they were assassins sent to kill him, but there's nothing new about that. Didn't he have it up to here (gesture) with the

killing in Nam, or did Osterizing that demon put some kind of zap on his head? Something bad is going to come from this, I can tell. Something reeeeeee baaaaaaad.

Kevin "Larry" Wohlmuth  
Saratoga, CA

Co-creator and original Badger artist, Jeffrey Butler will be doing at least one more special fill-in issue, and we hope to make it an annual event.

As for Steve Rude, co-creator and artist of Nexus, the Dude is not "gone." To everyone who has heard the deranged, irresponsible, and completely inaccurate rumor that Steve has left Nexus entirely, please read this month's Nexus letter column.



**NEXT MONTH:** Get out your hats and hooters! It's time for the "Billionaires Picnic!" By Mike Baron, Bill Reinhold, and Chuck Beckum.

-- Rick Oliver

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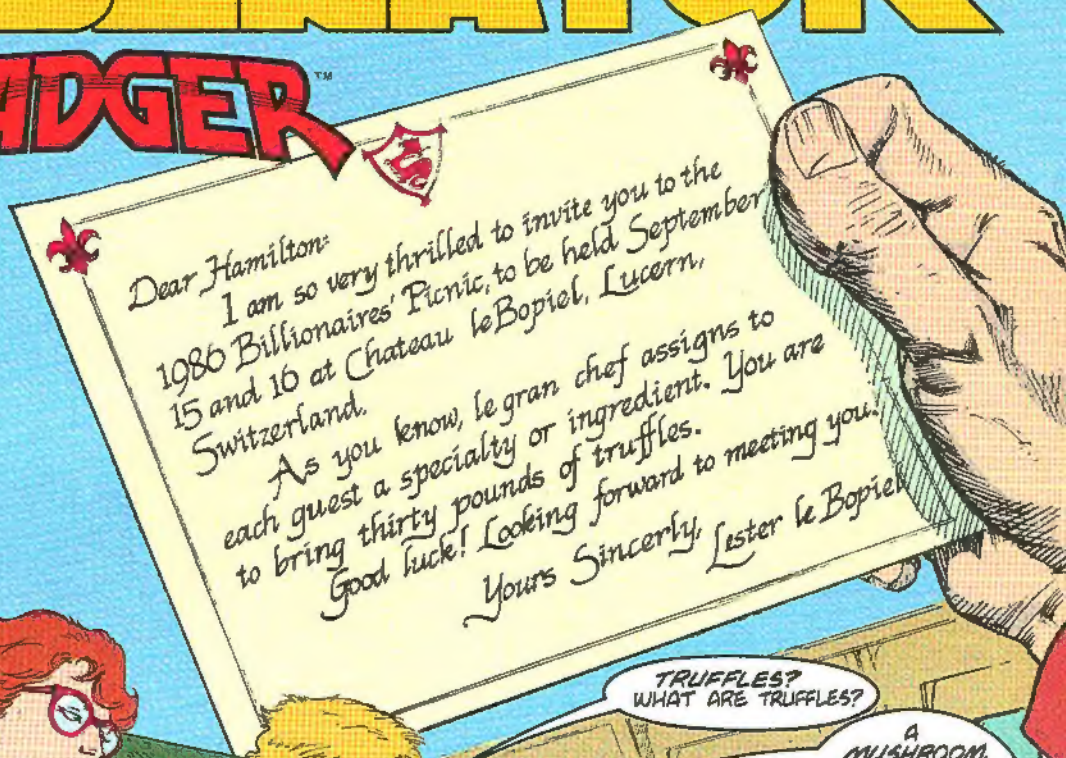
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# SENATOR

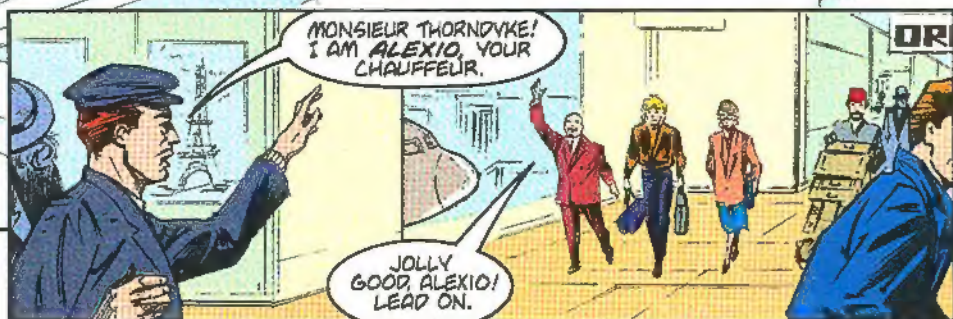
## BADGER™



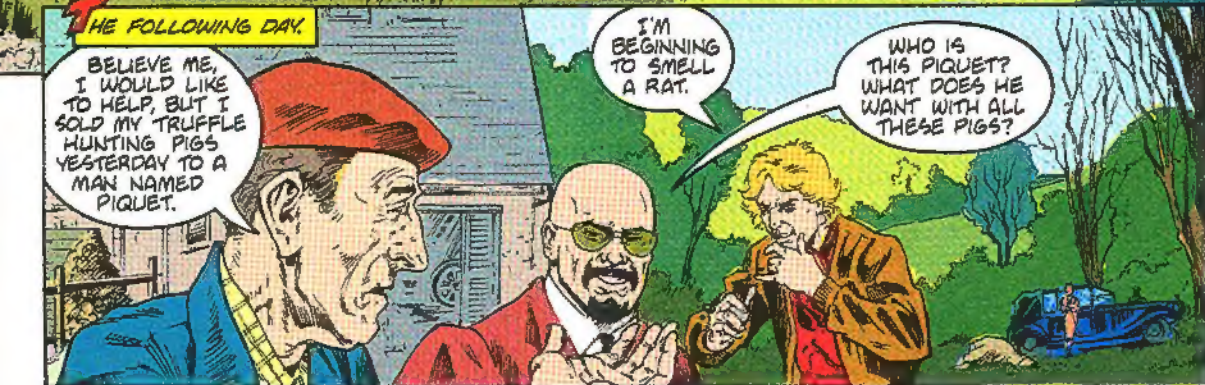
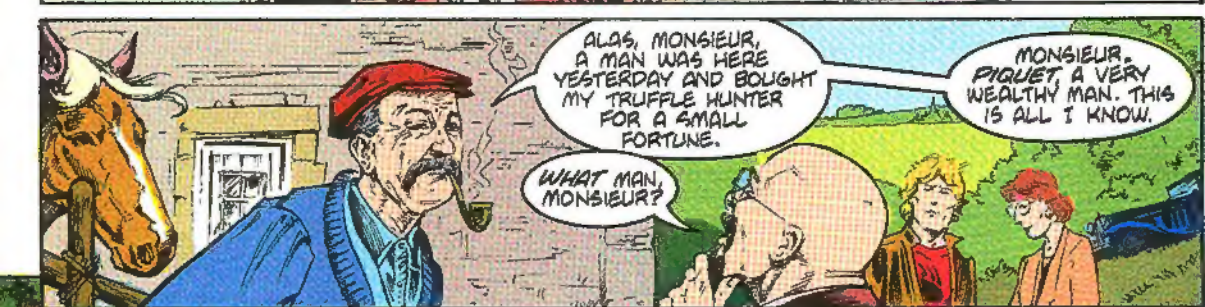
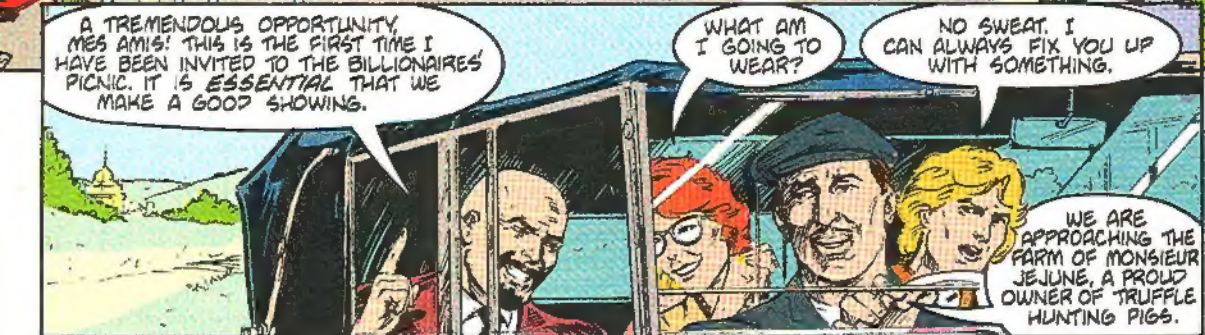
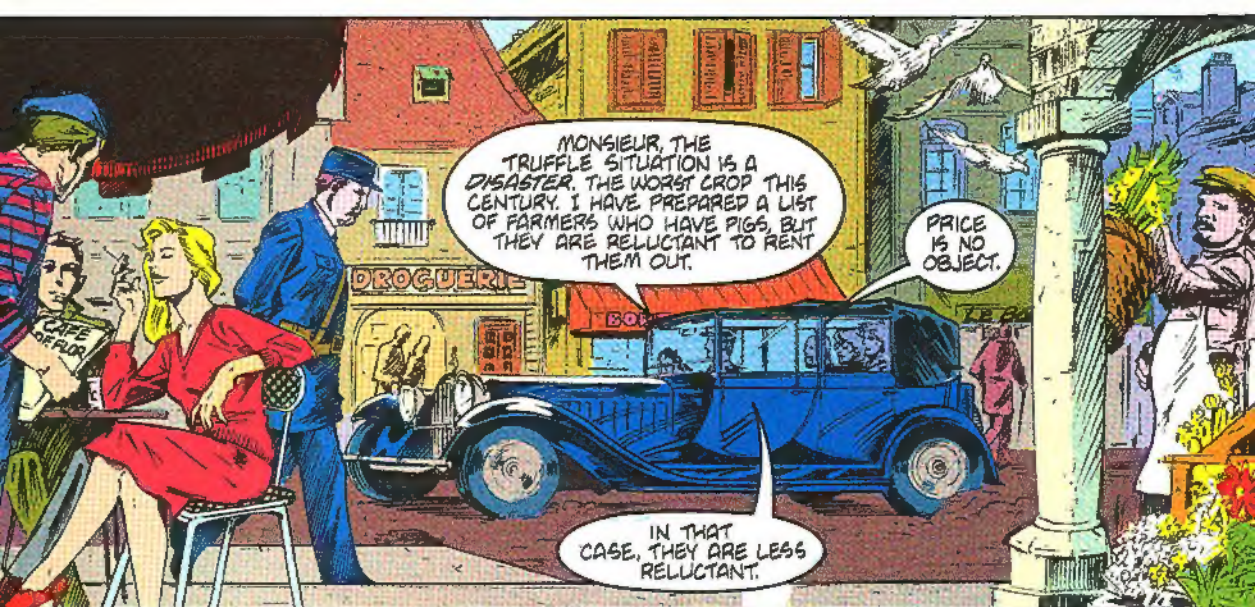
THE FAMOUS FIGHTING SWINE OF FRANCE! THE FRENCH THEY ARE A FUNNY RACE! THEY FIGHT WITH THEIR FEET AND—

|                            |                          |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| mike baron<br>script       | bill reinhold<br>pencils | rick bryant<br>inks      |
| willie schubert<br>letters | linda lessmann<br>colors | rick oliver<br>questions |

PRECISELY. YOUR JOB, SIR, IS TO LOCATE JUST SUCH AN ANIMAL. I HAVE CABLED AHEAD AND ARRANGED FOR A RELIABLE GUIDE TO ACCOMPANY US.

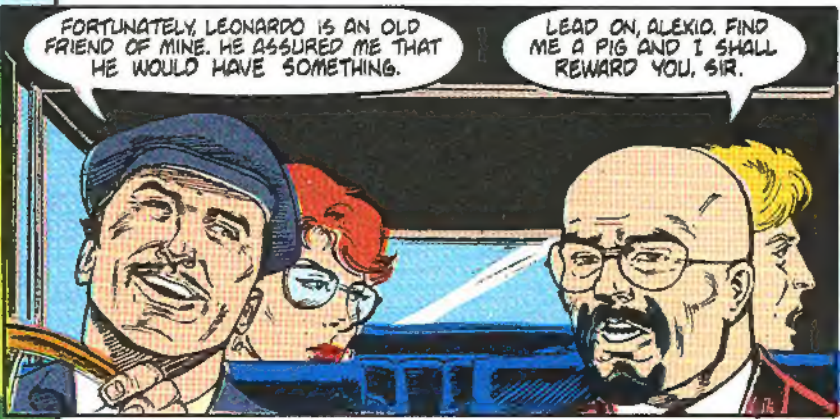








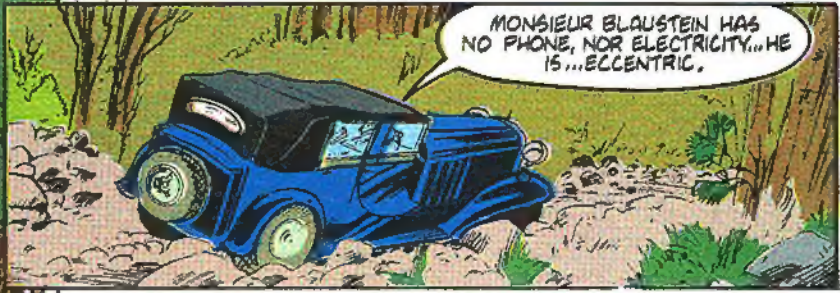
FOUR FARMS LATER.



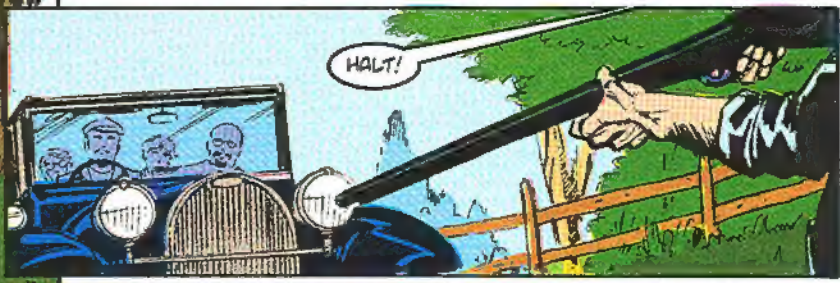
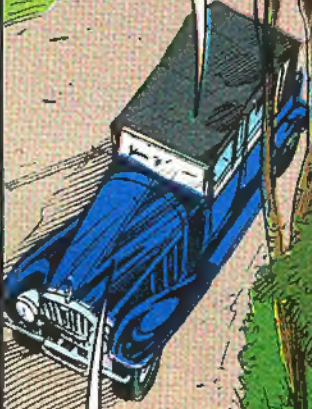
FORTUNATELY, LEONARDO IS AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE. HE ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD HAVE SOMETHING.

LEAD ON, ALEXIO. FIND ME A PIG AND I SHALL REWARD YOU, SIR.

PIQUET, PIQUET, PIQUET! THE MAN IS TRYING TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME! IF I CAN'T GET THOSE TRUFFLES, I WON'T BE ABLE TO SHOW MY FACE!



MONSIEUR BLAUSTEIN HAS NO PHONE, NOR ELECTRICITY...HE IS...ECCENTRIC.



HALT!



ALEXIO!

I WAS GOING TO SHOOT, BUT I SEE YOU DRIVING THIS EXQUISITE BUGATTI.

SMACK SMACK!

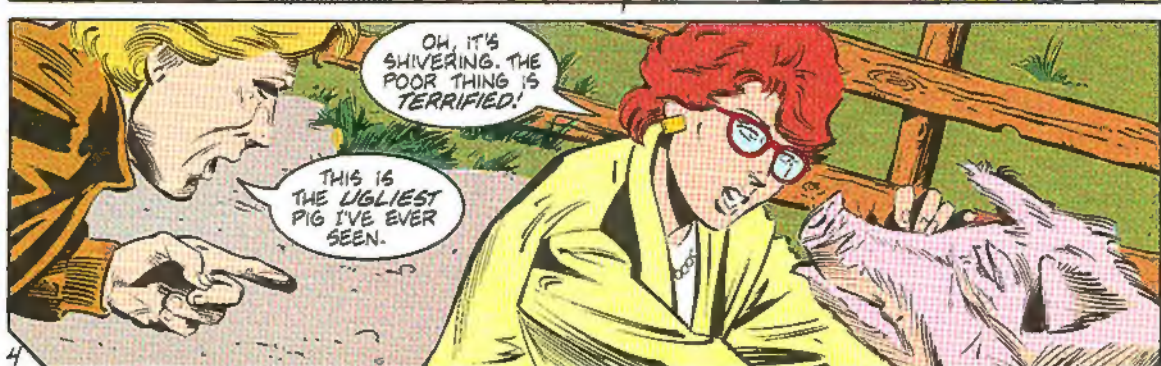
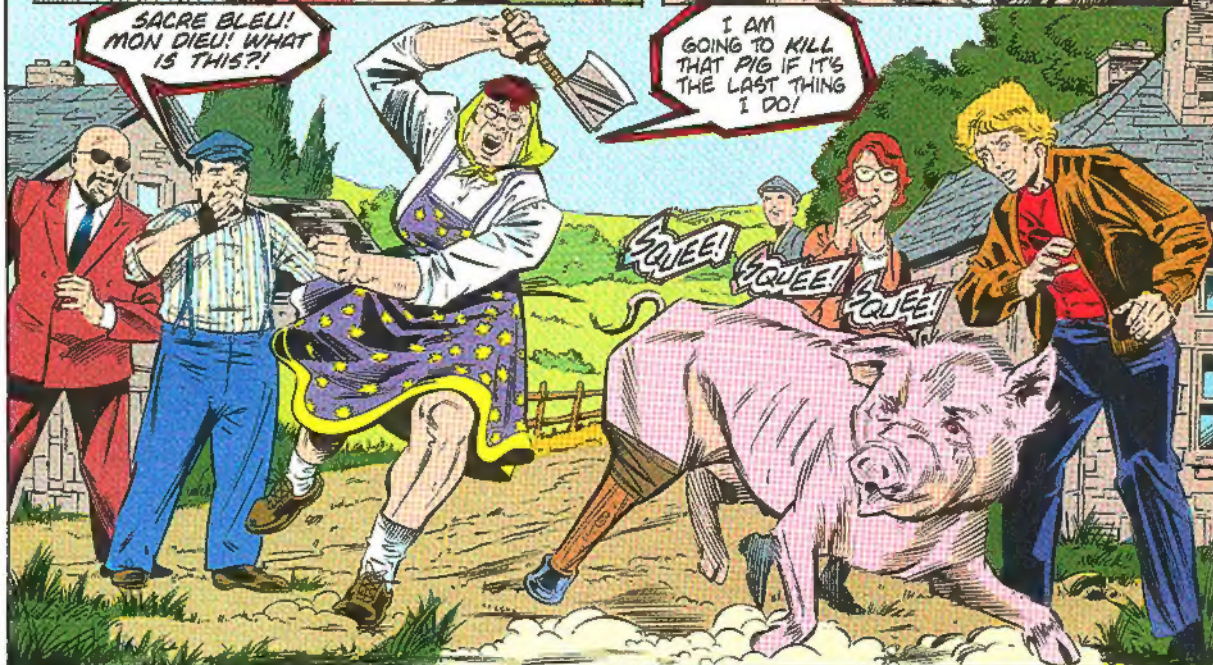
LEONARDO. THE CAR BELONGS TO MY GOOD FRIEND, MONSIEUR THORNDYKE.



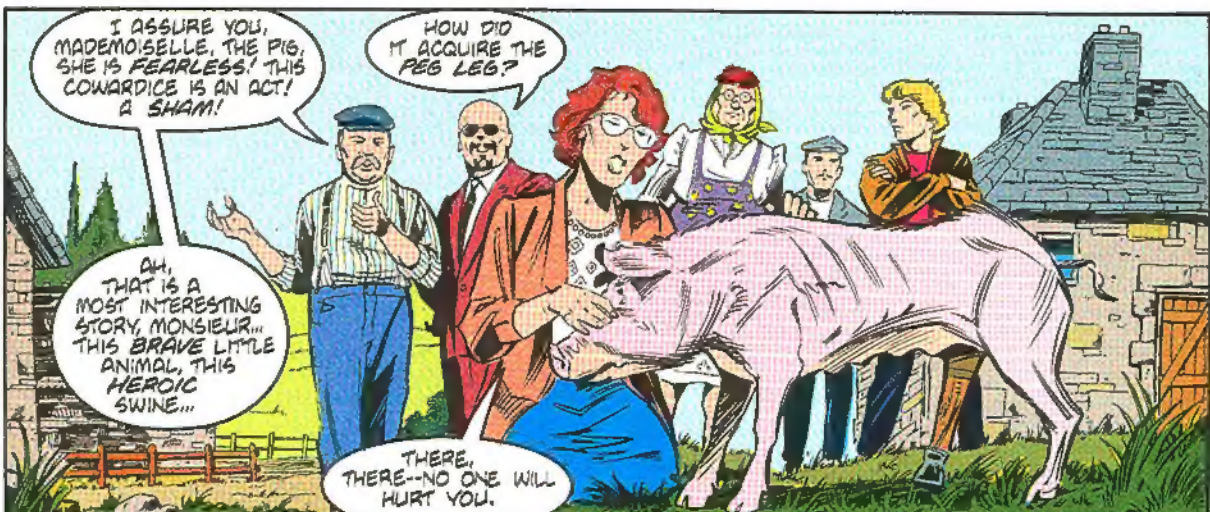
VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

MONSIEUR, I SEEK A TRUFFLE HUNTING PIG.









I ASSURE YOU, MADEMOISELLE, THE PIG, SHE IS FEARLESS! THIS COWARDICE IS AN ACT! A SHAM!

HOW DID IT ACQUIRE THE PEG LEG?

AH, THAT IS A MOST INTERESTING STORY, MONSIEUR... THIS BRAVE LITTLE ANIMAL, THIS HEROIC SWINE...

THERE, THERE--NO ONE WILL HURT YOU.

A YEAR AGO MY BELOVED ROXANNE AND I ARE SOUND ASLEEP WHEN THE PIG COMES CRASHING INTO THE ROOM, ONTO THE BED! SHE GAVE US QUITE A START! BUT THE HOUSE, SHE IS ON FIRE. SO THE PIG, SHE SAVES OUR LIVES.

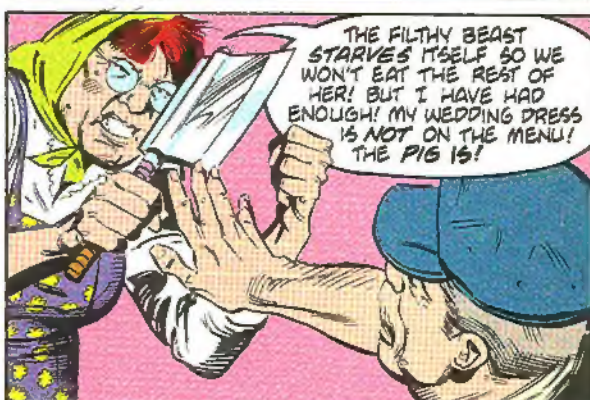
REMARKABLE.

"THERE IS MORE. SIX MONTHS AGO, I AM PLOWING MY FIELD WHEN THE PIG, SHE GRABS ME BY THE PANT LEG AND DRAGS ME BACK TO THE FARM. ROXANNE HAS FALLEN INTO THE WELL AND I DO NOT HEAR HER CRIES. SO THE PIG, SHE SAVES ROXANNE'S LIFE."

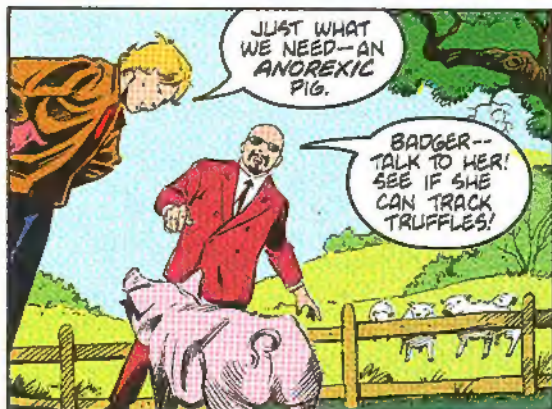
"FABULOUS. BUT WHERE DID SHE GET THE PEG LEG?"



LISTEN--A PIG THIS GOOD, YOU DON'T EAT ALL AT ONCE!



THE FILTHY BEAST STARVES ITSELF SO WE WON'T EAT THE REST OF HER! BUT I HAVE HAD ENOUGH! MY WEDDING DRESS IS NOT ON THE MENU! THE PIG IS!



JUST WHAT WE NEED--AN ANOREXIC PIG.

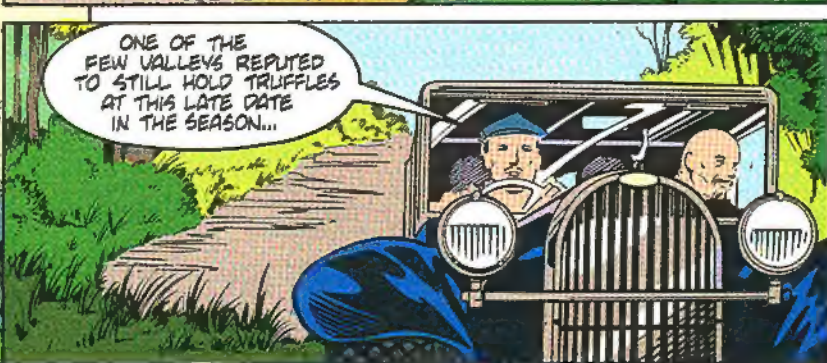
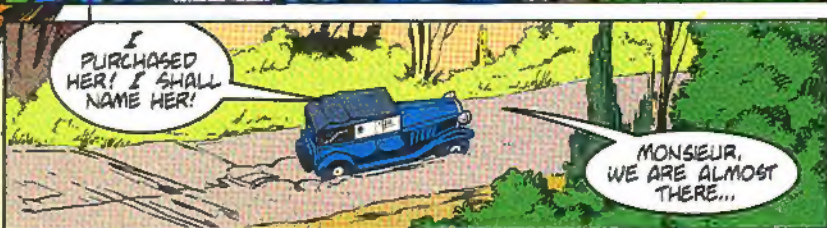
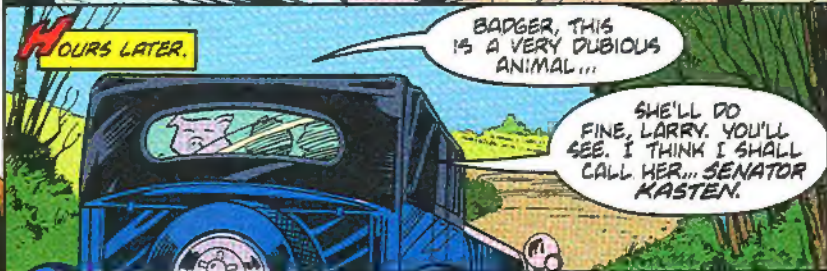
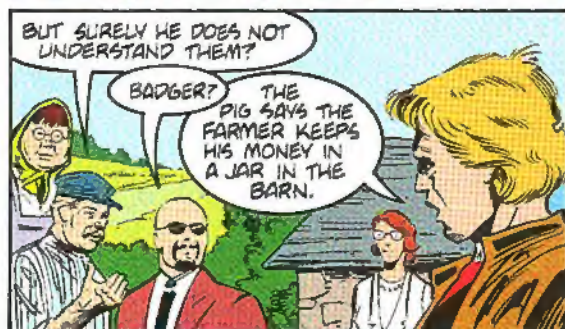
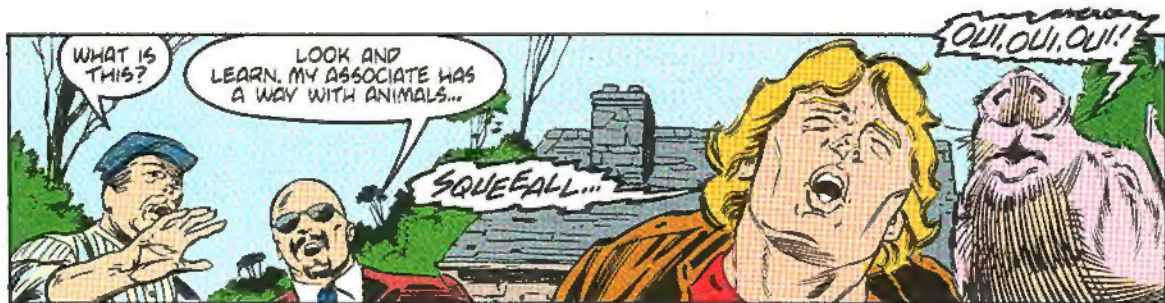
BADGER--TALK TO HER! SEE IF SHE CAN TRACK TRUFFLES!



OKAY, BUT MY FRENCH IS A BIT RUSTY... SQUEE?

SQUEE?



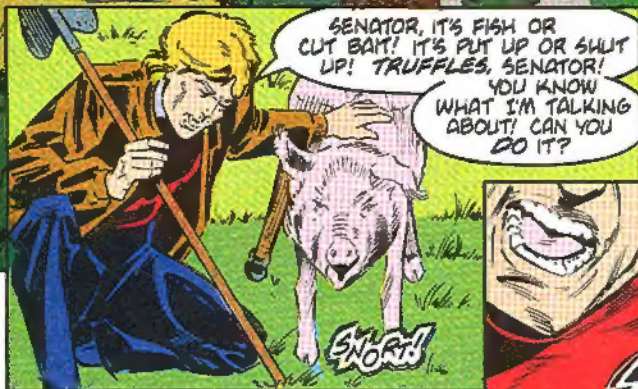
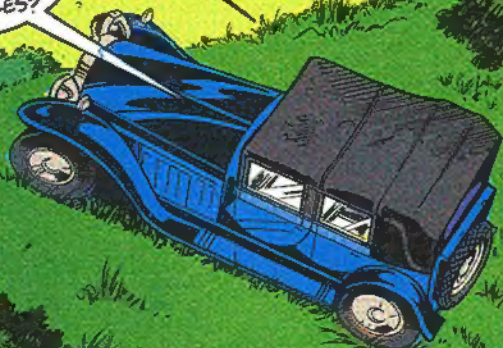




I HAVE  
SECURED THE  
TRUFFLE RIGHTS  
THROUGH A LOCAL  
AGENCY—BUT WE  
ONLY HAVE  
TWO DAYS.

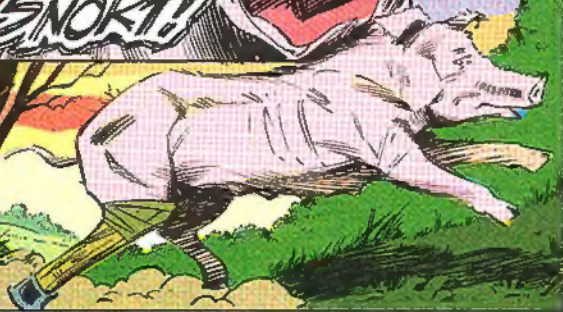
WELL LET'S  
GET ON WITH IT.  
HOW LONG CAN IT  
TAKE TO DIG UP  
THIRTY POUNDS  
OF TRUFFLES?

AH,  
MONSIEUR...  
IT CAN TAKE A  
LIFETIME.



SENATOR, IT'S FISH OR  
CUT BAIT! IT'S PUT UP OR SHUT  
UP! TRUFFLES, SENATOR!  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT I'M TALKING  
ABOUT! CAN YOU  
DO IT?

WHAT?  
I CAN'T HEAR  
YOU!



ALRIGHT!  
A STRIKE! BINGO!  
BONANZA!



TRUFFLES,  
NOT RUFFLES!  
TRUFFLES!



SHE  
CATCHES ON  
QUICK! DOESN'T  
SHE? GO,  
SENATOR!





LOOK AT THAT!  
A PERFECT POINT! SHE'S  
A NATURAL!



SHORTLY.

JUST LOOK AT THIS!  
AND THEY SAID THIS PIG  
WAS WASHED UP! NO WAY,  
SAID THIS PIG! AND TODAY  
IN A FIELD ON THE FRENCH-  
SWISS BORDER, SHE PROVED  
IT! JUST LOOK AT THIS  
BEAUTY! WHAT A PIG!



I AGREE,  
MONSIEUR, WHICH  
IS WHY YOU MUST  
SELL THE PIG  
TO ME.

MONSIEUR  
PIQUET, NO  
DOUBT.

I AM  
PIQUET...

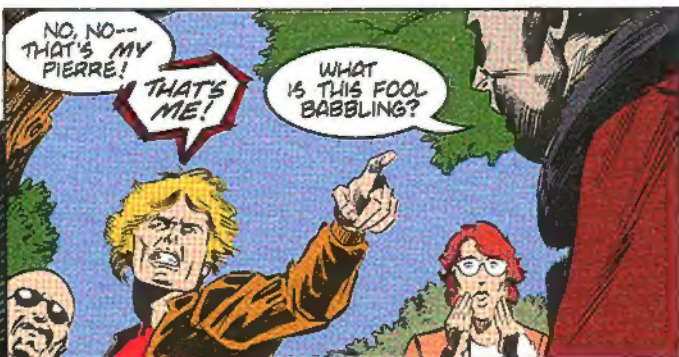


PIERRE  
PIQUET, AT  
YOUR  
SERVICE.



PIERRE?

NOT YOUR  
PIERRE--ANOTHER  
PIERRE!

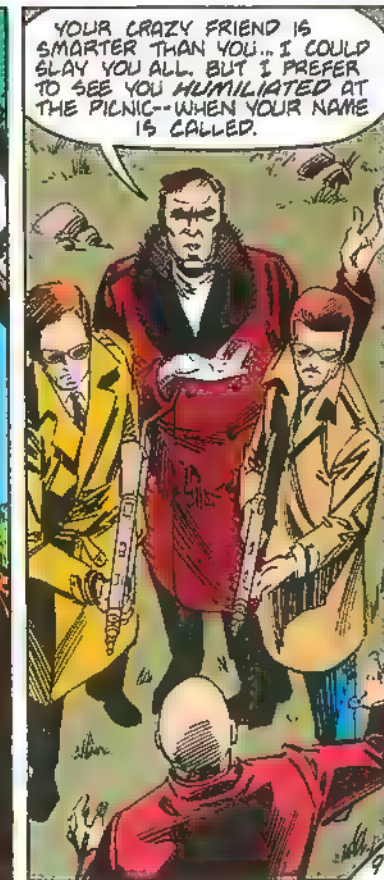
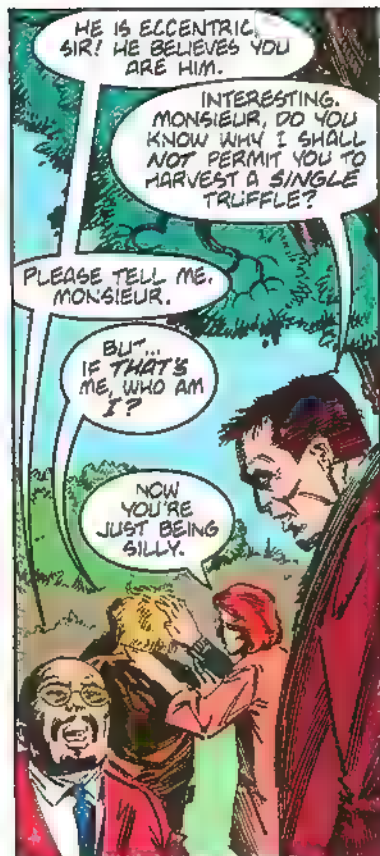


NO, NO--  
THAT'S MY  
PIERRE!

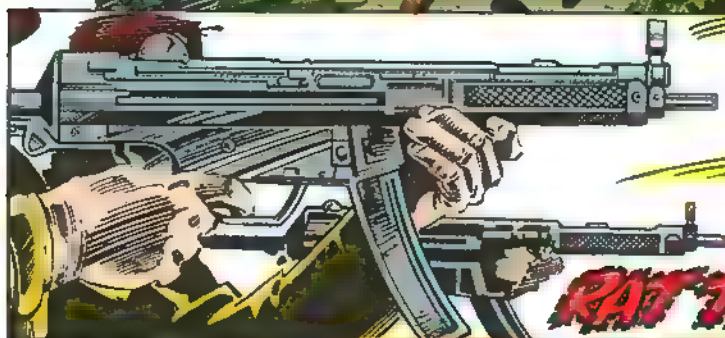
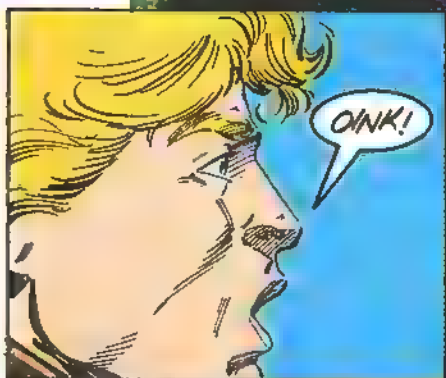
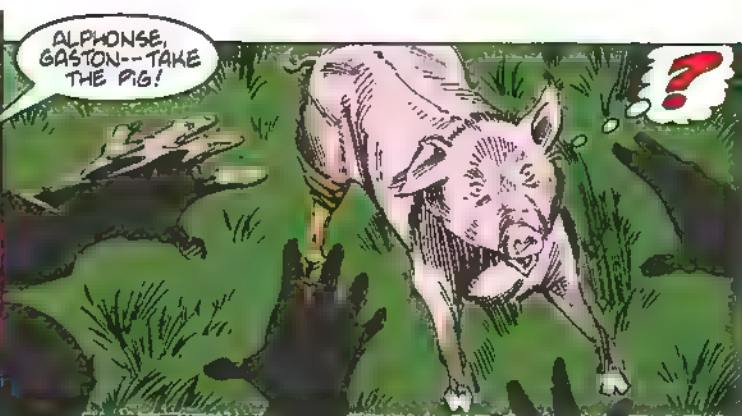
THAT'S  
ME!

WHAT  
IS THIS FOOL  
BABBLING?









**RAT TAT TAT TAT**



**AMBUSH!  
EVERYBODY  
DOWN!**





# FIRST NOTES

I just returned from the **Chicago Comicon** -- a three day extravaganza, one of the largest comics conventions in the world, and just about the only opportunity I get to actually be recognized by anyone -- and I had so much fun I decided to tell you about it and make you furiously jealous.

The Chicago Comicon is always a special occasion for us because it represents something of an anniversary for First Comics. It was at the Chicago convention, four years ago, that we formally announced our entry into the comics publishing arena. We introduced a line of three titles, and it was probably the biggest event of the season.

And I have a feeling we may have stolen the show once again.

This month you see eight titles, over half of them with double digit issue numbers. And next month you'll see ten. That's more books than we've ever published before, and we're still growing. These are quality titles you know are going to be around for a while because we have a commitment to them -- and to you. You know you can count on us.

What did we announce at this year's convention that you didn't already know about? Rather than just tell you, let me play you a transcript of part of the question-and-answer segment of the First Comics panel which I moderated.

**Question:** What's **Judith Hunt** doing sitting on your panel? She doesn't work for you.

**Moderator:** She does now, smarty-pants!

**Question:** Okay, what exactly is she doing for you?

**Moderator:** What's it to ya?

**Mike Grell:** I'd just like to say I'm pleased as punch that Judith is drawing the two-part **Jon Sable, Freelance** story for issues #44 and #45.

**Moderator:** She is? Ah, I mean, right? She is! It was my idea, too! She didn't have any time in her schedule to do anything else for us, but I managed to convince her.

**Judith Hunt:** Um, excuse me. I just want everybody to know that I've finally found the right publisher for my own series. Starting in December, **Evangelina** will be coming out every month -- from First Comics.

**Moderator:** Huh? Wait a minute...

**Question:** Do you have any future plans for **Dynamo Joe**?

**Moderator:** Hey, we're giving you a crossover in **Grimjack** and a **Dynamo Joe Special**, both in one month! Isn't that enough?

**Doug Rice:** The battling behemoth will be returning in his own monthly series in October.

**Moderator:** What ever gave you a whacky idea like that?

**Doug Rice:** You told me so

**Moderator:** Oh

**Question:** Isn't that **Kevin Eastman** sitting in the front row?

**Moderator:** Kevin who? Listen bub, I've got more important things to worry about than whether or not any of Linda McCartney's relatives are sitting in the audience! Hey, Ostrander! Why are you giving that guy a microphone?

**Kevin Eastman:** Thanks, John. On behalf of **Peter Laird** and myself, I'm proud to announce that First Comics will be releasing a full-color **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** graphic novel this November, in plenty of time for the Christmas gift season.

**Moderator:** Wha--?

**Howard Chaykin:** And don't forget **Time<sup>2</sup>**, the first in my new series of graphic novels for First, also coming out in November.

**Eric Shanower:** And **The Secret Island of Oz**, my second First graphic novel!



**Moderator:** Who do you guys think your are, interrupting me? I'm the editor! This is my panel! I get to make all the important announcements!

**Question:** Is it true that **Rick Oliver** is sarcastic, flippant, grumpy, easily confused, and people call him "the ogre in the cave" behind his back?

**Entire Panel:** Yes.

**Moderator:** Well, I can see our time is up

## FIRST IN SEPTEMBER

**American Flagg! #36:** The British monarchy in Oklahoma? The king of Eng. and thrown in a dungeon by his own brother? What's going on here? That's what Reuben wants to know! By **Steven Grant**, **Mark Badger** and **Randy Emberlin**. Plus **Bob Violence** by Grant and **Norm Breyfogle**.

**Badger #19:** Badger travels to the south of France to hunt for truffles but soon finds he is also being hunted by one of his own split personalities! By **Mike Baron**, **Bill Reinhold** and **Rick Bryant**. And **Clonezone** finds a new home! By **Baron** and **Mark A. Nelson**. Deluxe series

**The Chronicles of Corum #1:** The graphic adaptation of **Michael Moorcock's** **Eternal Champion** books expands this month with the addition of the popular **Corum** series, beginning with the **Knight of the Swords**. By **Mike Baron**, **Mike Mignola** and **Rick Burchett**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

**Dreadstar #28:** **Vanth Dreadstar & Company** begin the final battle of the rebellion! But **Vanth** loses the one thing he needs to ensure success -- the **Lord High Papal**. Story and art by **Jim Starlin**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

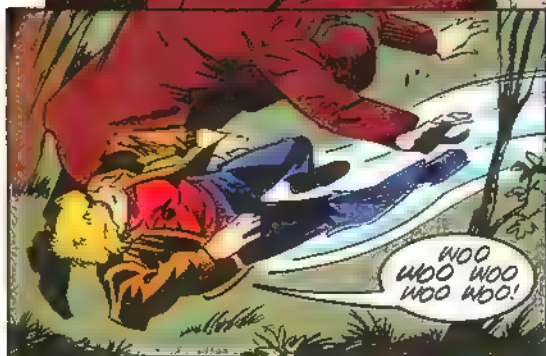
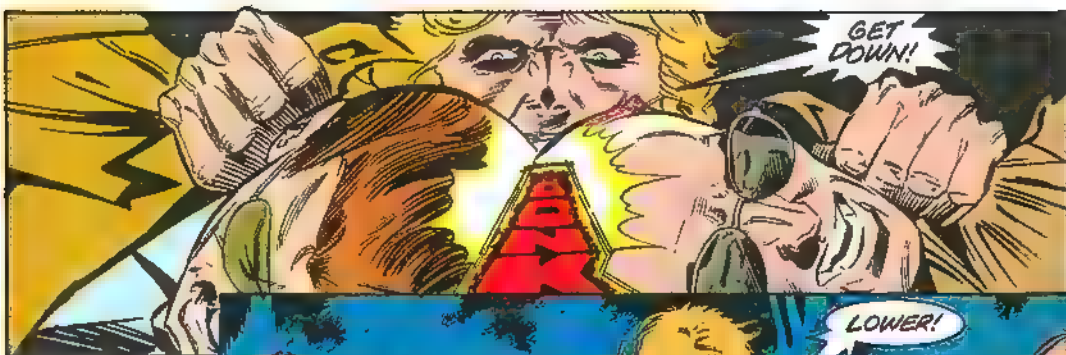
**Dynamo Joe Special #1:** A special prelude to the return of **Dynamo Joe** as an ongoing regular series, reprinting the battling behemoth's first appearance from **Mars #10-12**. With eight additional pages of new material by artist/creator **Doug Rice** and writers **John Ostrander** and **Phil Foglio**.

**Grimjack #30:** **Dynamo Joe** makes an unexpected side-slip and "crosses over" to **Cynosure**, and the gant robot's crew wind up on **Grimjack's** turf. By **John Ostrander** and **Doug Rice**. Plus **Munden's Bar** by **Ostrander** and **Stan Sakai**.

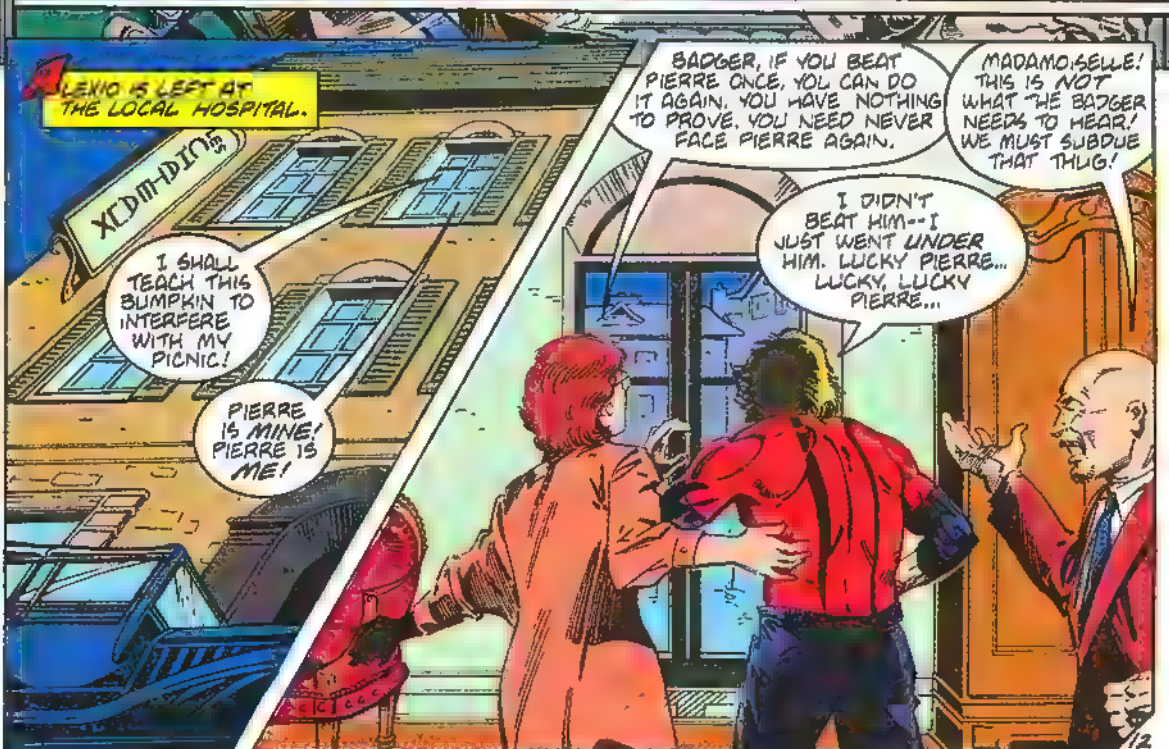
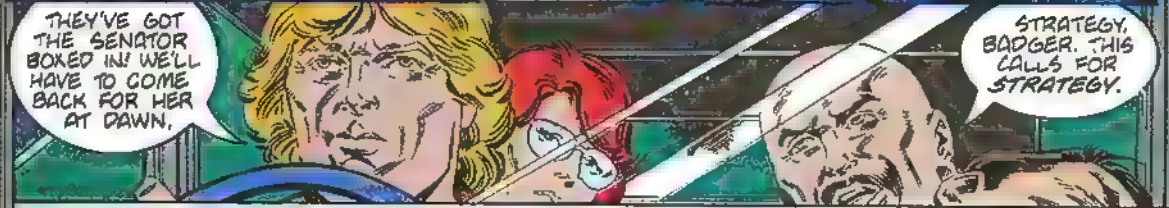
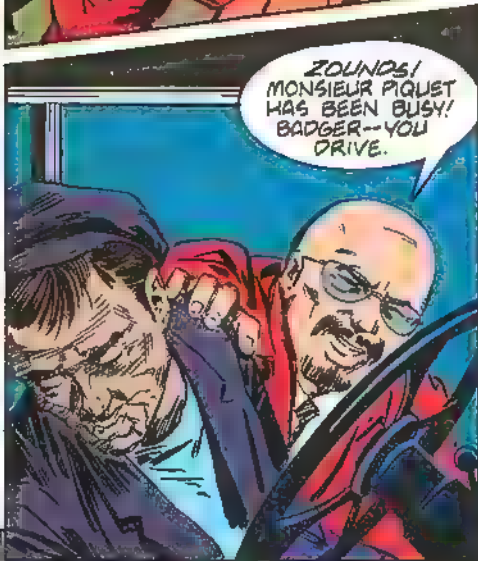
**Hawkmoon: The Mad God's Amulet #1:** Beginning the four-part adaptation of **Michael Moorcock's** second book in the **History of the Runestaff**. **Dorian Hawkmoon** finds that a deserted city holds peril and strange allies. By **Gerry Conway**, **Rafael Kayanan** and **Rico Rival**. Deluxe, bi-monthly series.

**Nexus #28:** The first in our star-studded line-up of special fill-in issues, this month featuring the artwork of **Mike Mignola** (**Alpha Flight**, **Rocket Raccoon**). Story by **Mike Baron**. Plus the first episode of a new back-up by **Baron** and **Craig Brasfield**. Deluxe series







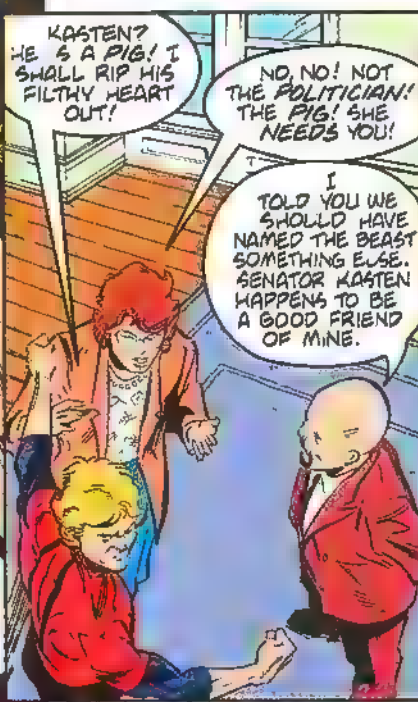






HO HO HO  
MADEMOISELLE...  
LUCKY PIERRE IS  
READY TO GO  
TO WORK...

BADGER!  
YOU'RE THE  
BADGER!  
REMEMBER  
SENATOR  
KASTEN!



KASTEN?  
HE'S A PIG! I  
SHALL RIP HIS  
FILTHY HEART  
OUT!

NO, NO! NOT  
THE POLITICIAN!  
THE PIG! SHE  
NEEDS YOU!

I  
TOLD YOU WE  
SHOULD HAVE  
NAMED THE BEAST  
SOMETHING ELSE.  
SENATOR KASTEN  
HAPPENS TO BE  
A GOOD FRIEND  
OF MINE.



PIERRE  
WILL CUT,  
PIERRE WILL  
CHOP!



OINK!  
SQUEAL!

OINK?  
SQUEAL?



THAT'S RIGHT,  
BADGER, OR HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN YOUR  
MISSION?

MY  
MISSION...

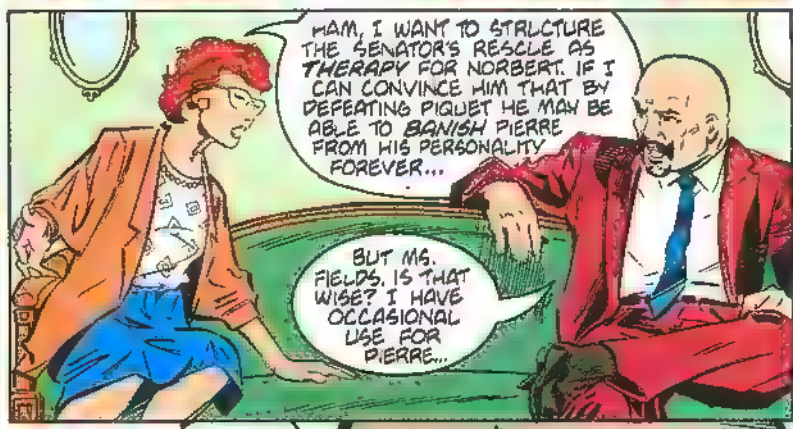
ZE PEEG  
MONSIEUR!  
SHE IS  
COUNTING  
ON YOU.



SENATOR! DON'T WORRY, BABY!  
POPPA'S COMING!

POPPA'S GOT  
A BRAND NEW  
PIGBAG!

WELL  
JONE, MS.  
FIELDS.



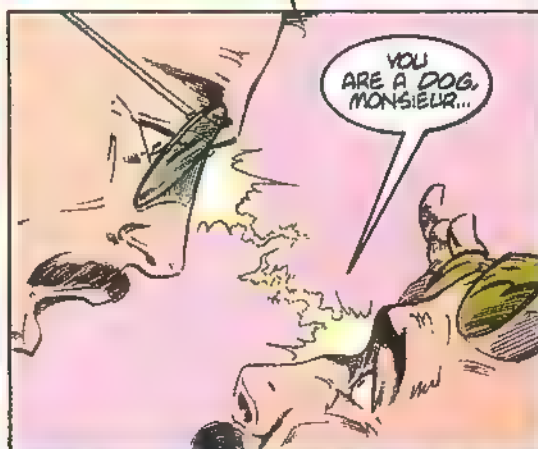
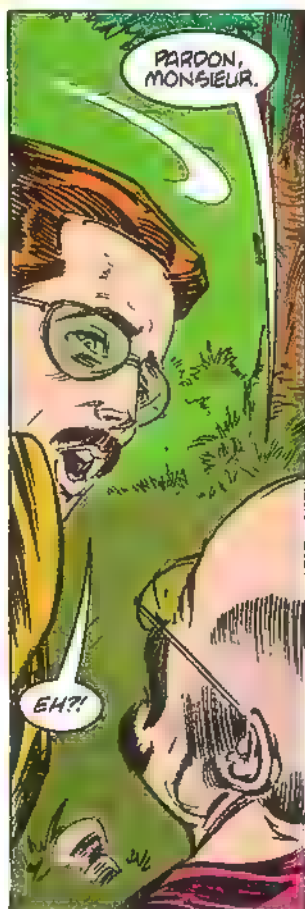
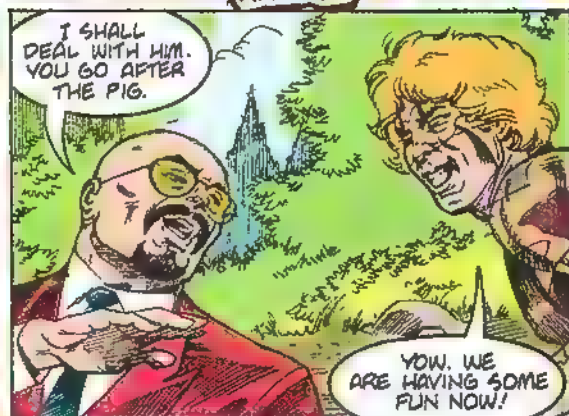
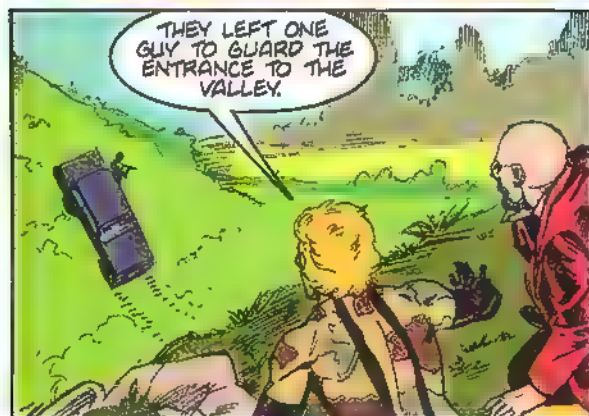
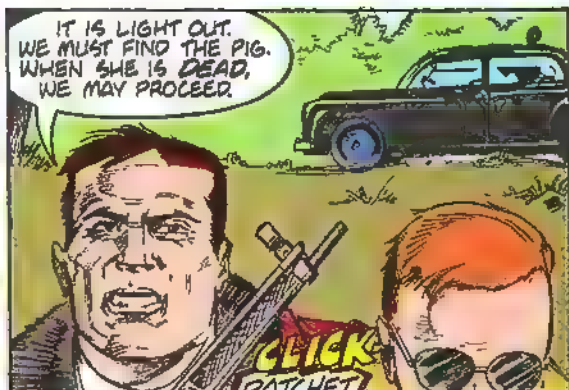
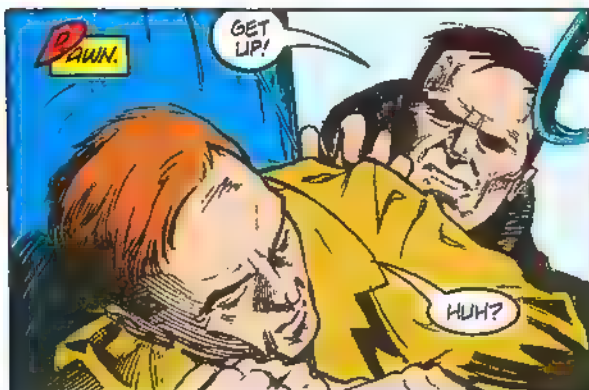
HAM, I WANT TO STRUCTURE  
THE SENATOR'S RESCUE AS  
THERAPY FOR NORBERT. IF I  
CAN CONVINCE HIM THAT BY  
DEFEATING PIQUET HE MAY BE  
ABLE TO BANISH PIERRE  
FROM HIS PERSONALITY  
FOREVER...

BUT MS.  
FIELDS, IS THAT  
WISE? I HAVE  
OCCASIONAL  
USE FOR  
PIERRE...

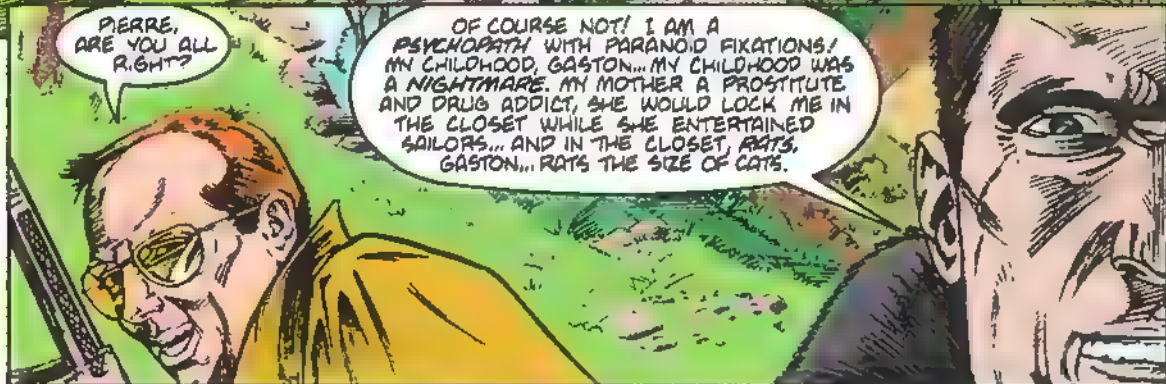
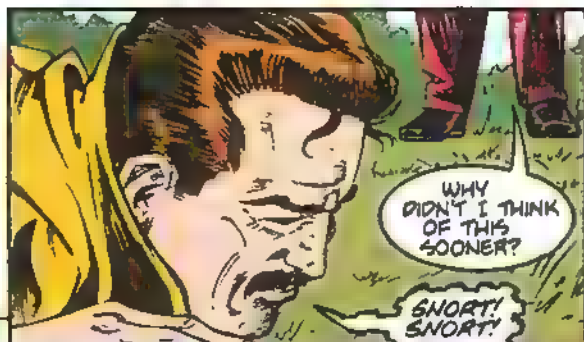


OH, VERY  
WELL...







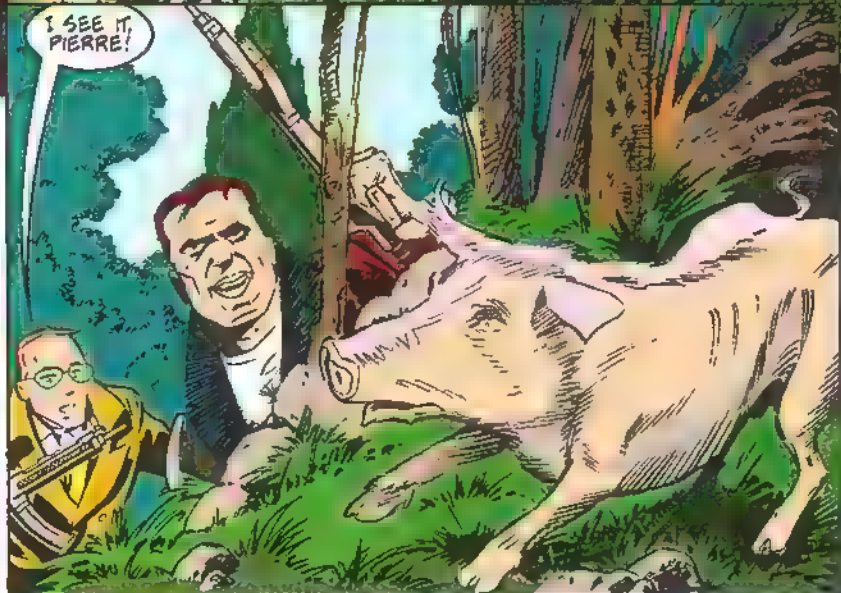




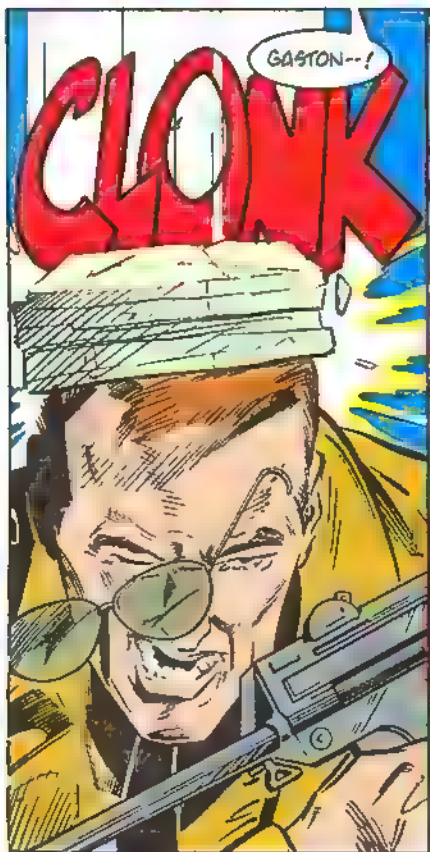
AND YET, GASTON, CAN WE EVER TRULY ESCAPE OUR PAST? THESE QUESTIONS, THEY DOMINATE MY EVERY WAKING HOUR... COME. ENOUGH. WE WILL NEVER FIND THAT PIG AND NEITHER WILL THORNDYKE.



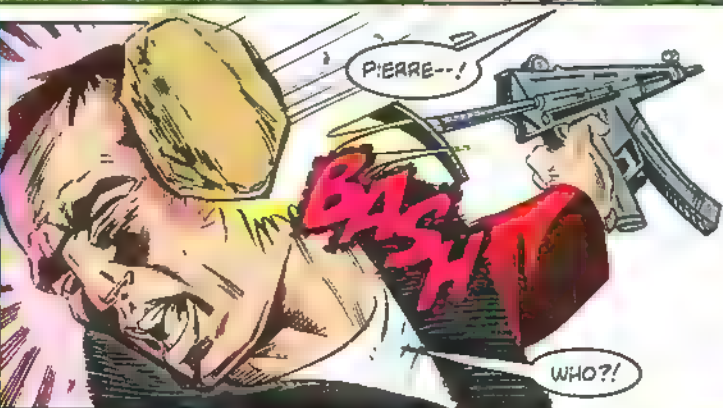
I SEE IT, PIERRE!



GASTON--!



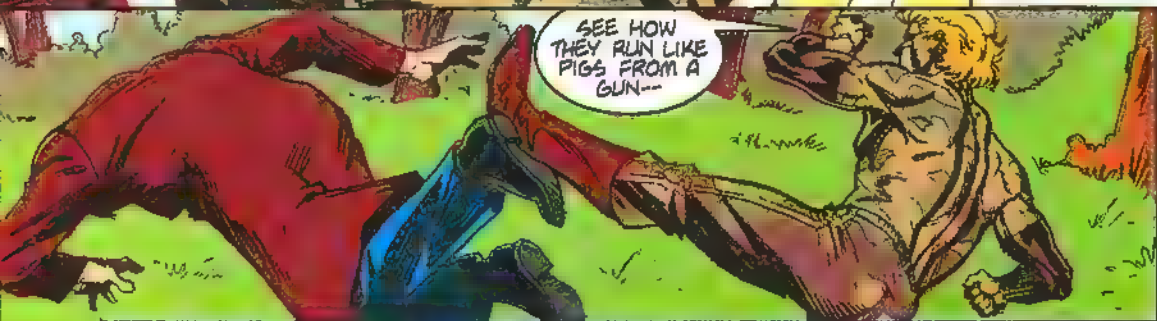
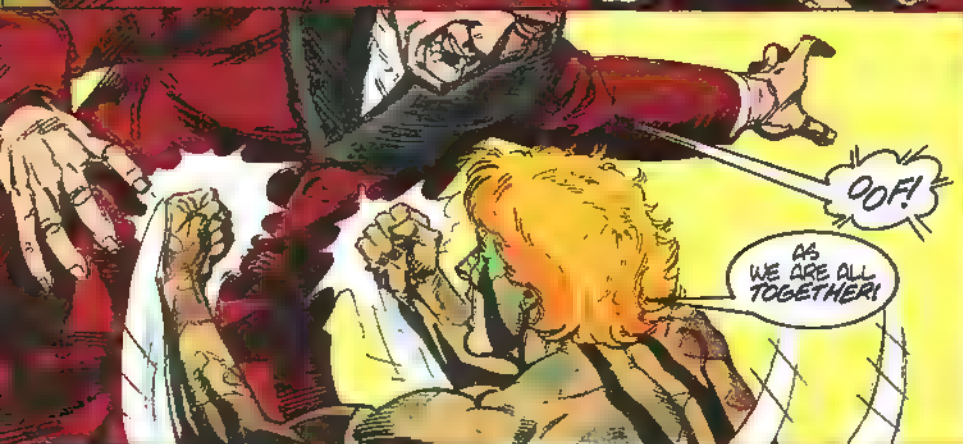
PIERRE--!



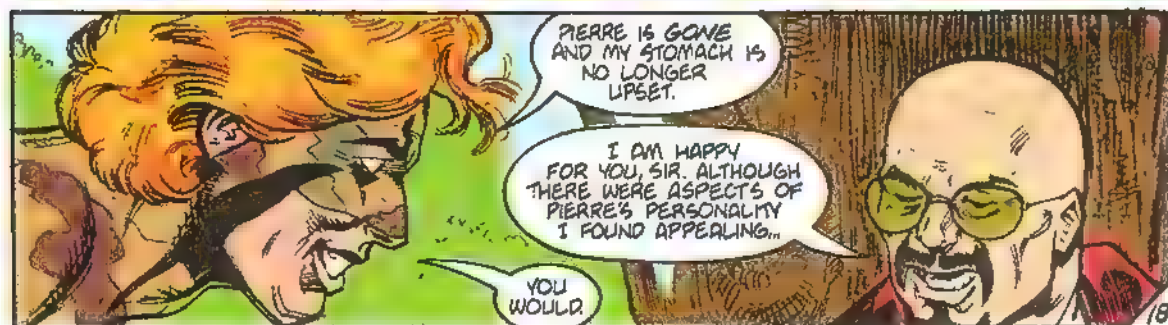
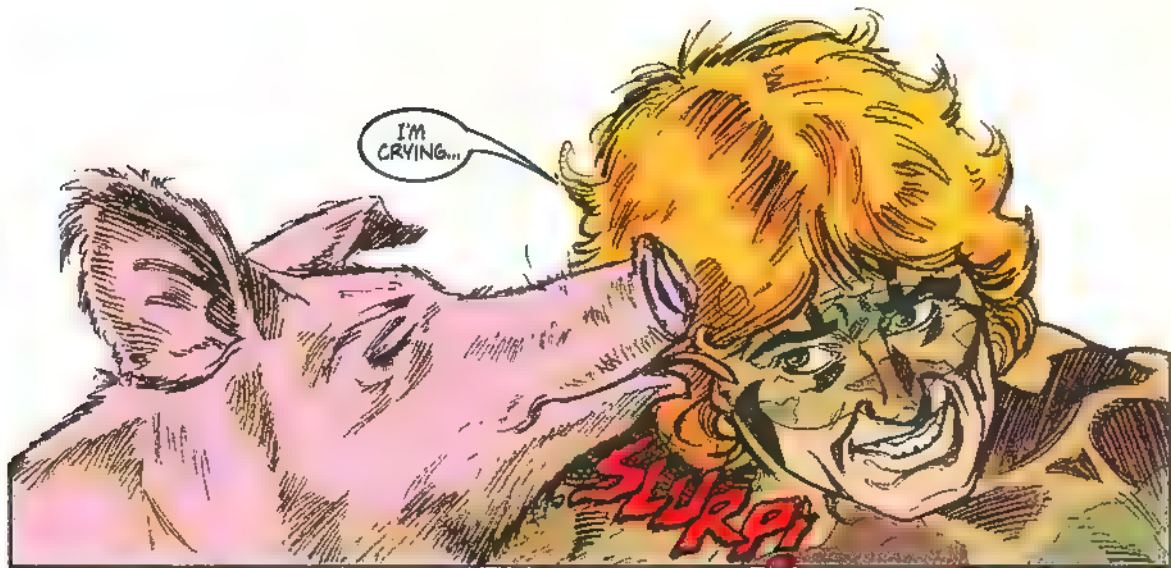
I AM HE--



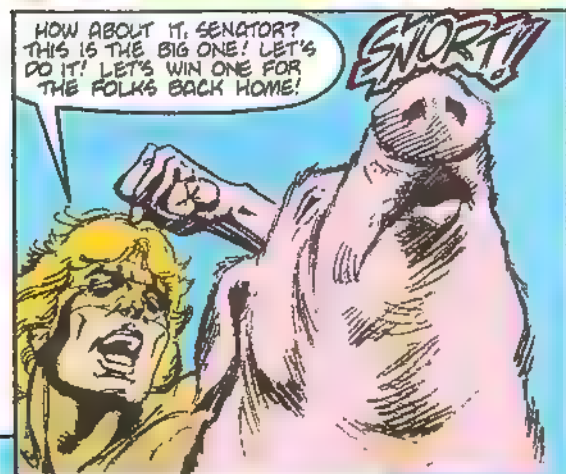
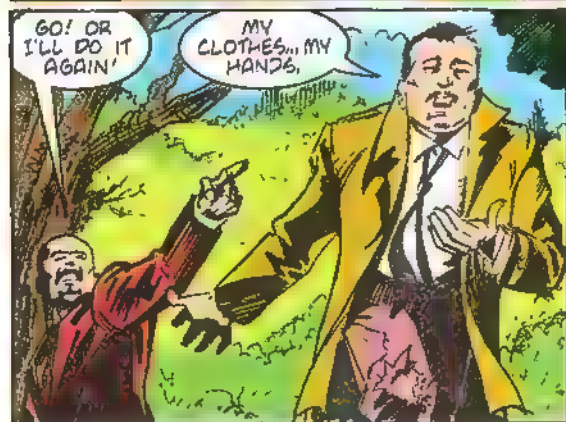
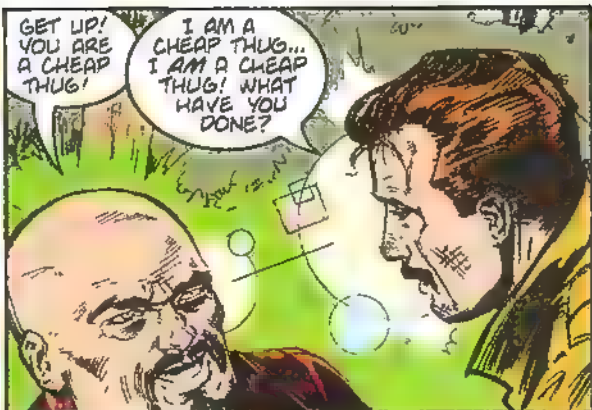




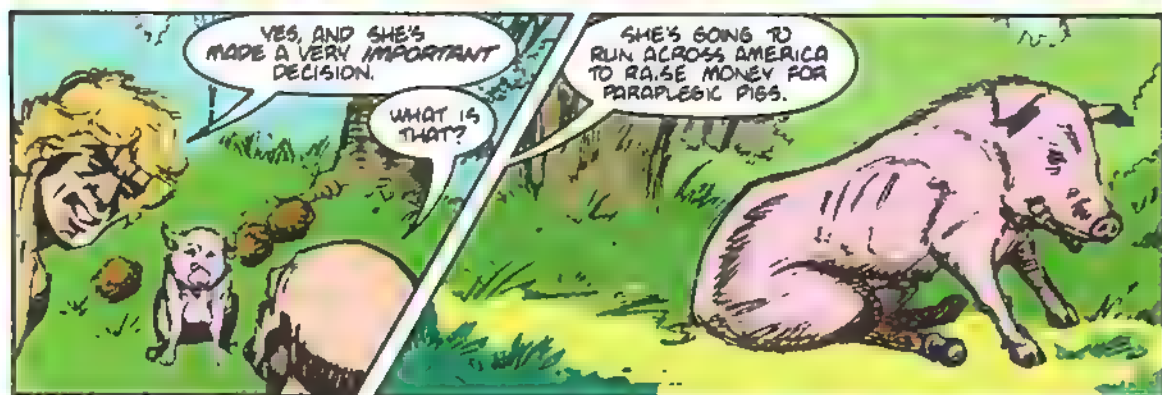
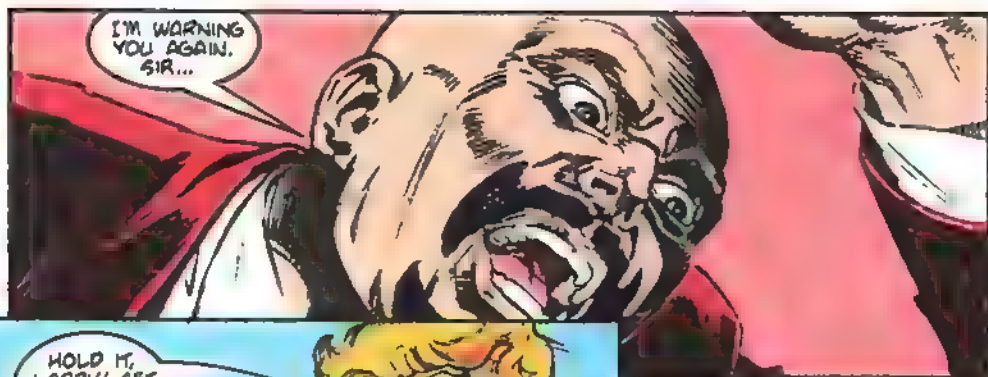




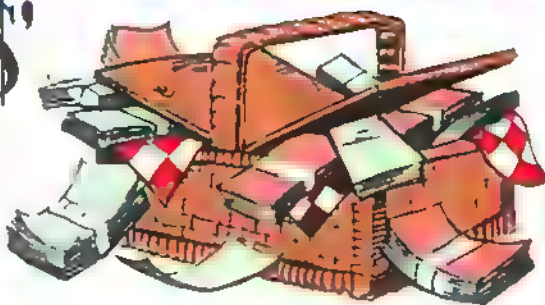








next: **BILLIONAIRES'**  
**PICNIC**





TALES from the  
CLONEZONE™

# HONEST CLONEZONE

SALES PITCH: BARON

AD DEPT: NELSON

PAINT: LESSMANN

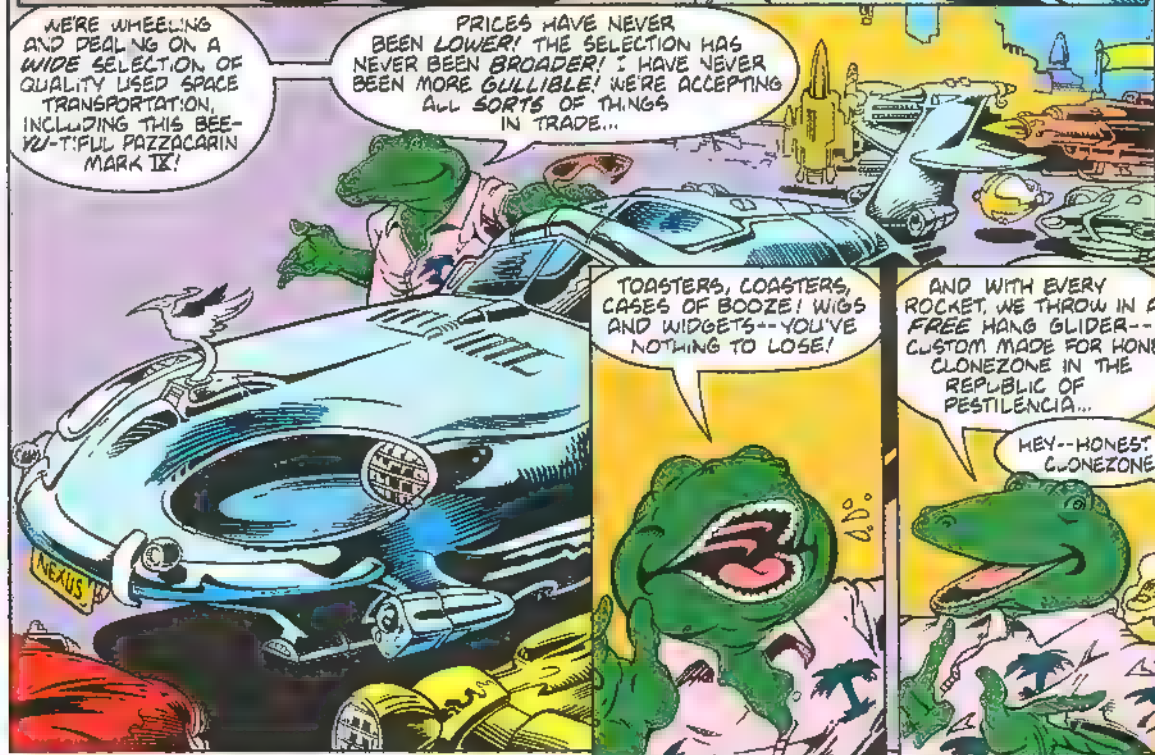
SIGNS: SCHUBERT

QUALITY CONTROL: OLIVER



WE'RE WHEELING  
AND DEALING ON A  
WIDE SELECTION OF  
QUALITY USED SPACE  
TRANSPORTATION,  
INCLUDING THIS BEE-  
VU-TIFUL PAZZACARIN  
MARK IX!

PRICES HAVE NEVER  
BEEN LOWER! THE SELECTION HAS  
NEVER BEEN BROADER! I HAVE NEVER  
BEEN MORE GULLIBLE! WE'RE ACCEPTING  
ALL SORTS OF THINGS  
IN TRADE...

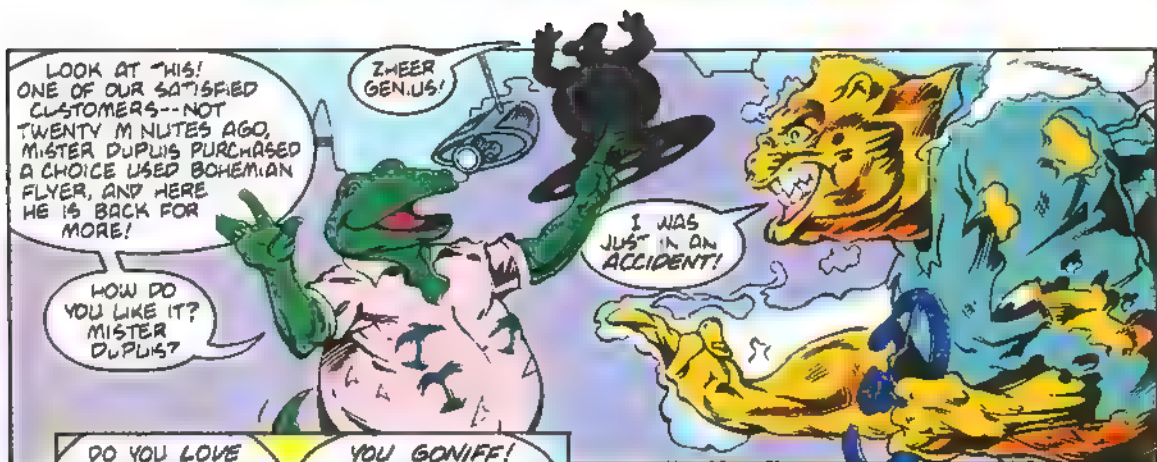


TOASTERS, COASTERS,  
CASES OF BOOZE! WIGS  
AND WIDGETS--YOU'VE  
NOTHING TO LOSE!

AND WITH EVERY  
ROCKET, WE THROW IN A  
FREE HANG GLIDER--  
CUSTOM MADE FOR HONEST  
CLONEZONE IN THE  
REPUBLIC OF PESTILENCIA...

HEY--HONEST  
CLONEZONE!





LOOK AT THIS! ONE OF OUR SATISFIED CUSTOMERS--NOT TWENTY MINUTES AGO, MISTER DUPUIS PURCHASED A CHOICE USED BOHEMIAN FLYER, AND HERE HE IS BACK FOR MORE!

ZHEER GENIUS!

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT? MISTER DUPUIS?

I WAS JUST IN AN ACCIDENT!

DO YOU LOVE IT, FOLKS! I SAY, DO YOU LOVE IT?! DESPITE SMACKING HEAD INTO A CEMENT FREIGHTER, MISTER DUPUIS IS ALIVE AND WELL THANKS TO HIS QUALITY VEHICLE!

YOU GONIFF! THE RETRO-ROCKETS FAILED! I LOST CONTROL!

I TOLD YOU WHEN YOU BOUGHT THE BEAST, THOSE RETRO-ROCKETS HAD BEEN RETRO-FITTED! IF YOU'D BOUGHT THE EXTENDED SERVICE WARRANTY, YOU WOULDN'T BE IN THIS PREDICAMENT!

YOU CROOK! I'M GONNA TAKE IT OUT OF YOUR HIDE!

FOLKS--COME ON DOWN!

JACQUES--COME ON OUT!

CRUSH YOU LIKE AN EGGSHELL!

JA! JA! KEEP YILMING!



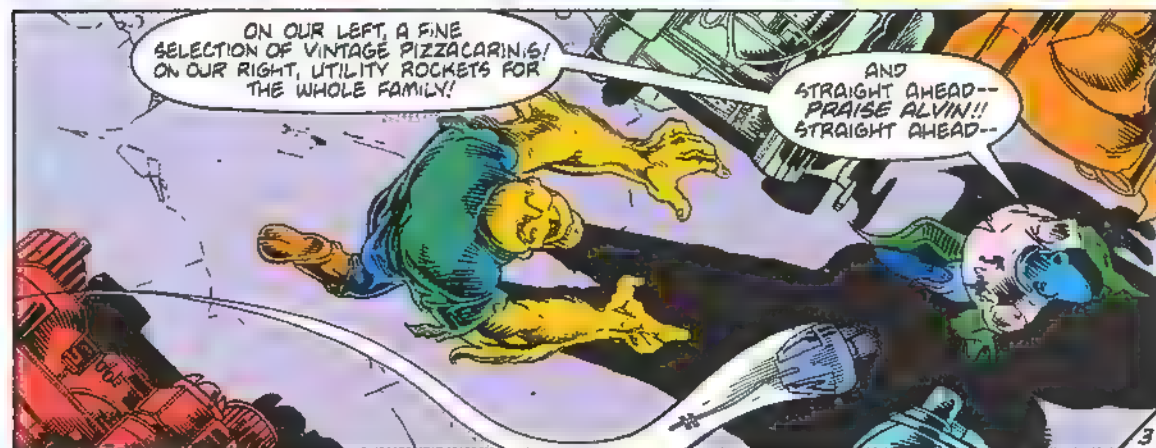
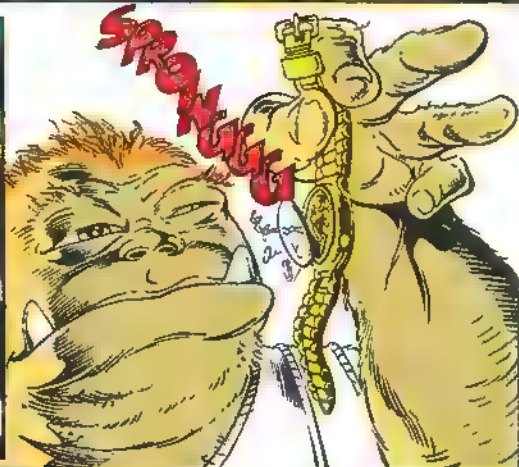
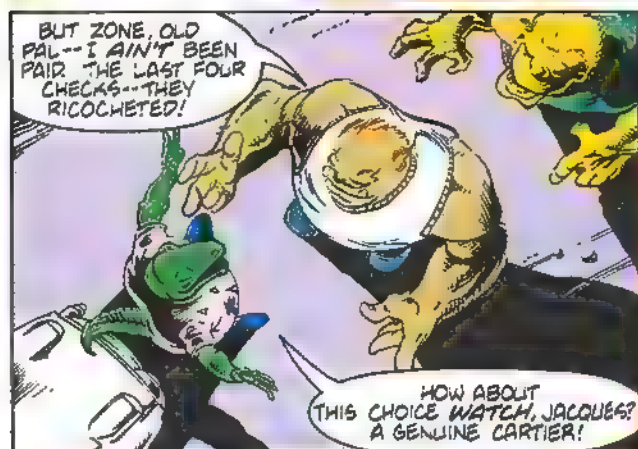
WELL IT'S ABOUT TIME, YOU BIG LUMMOX!

STOP! NO MAYHEM ON THE LOT!

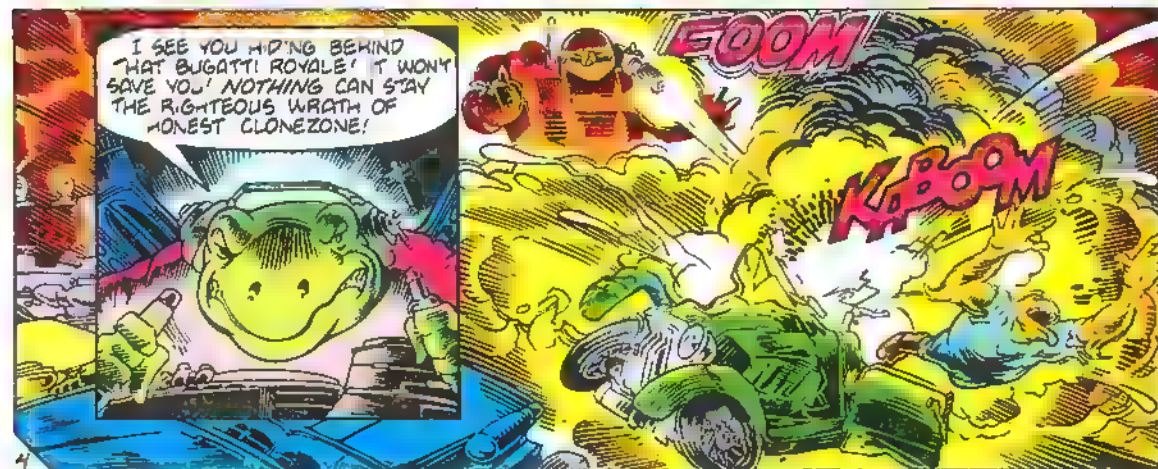
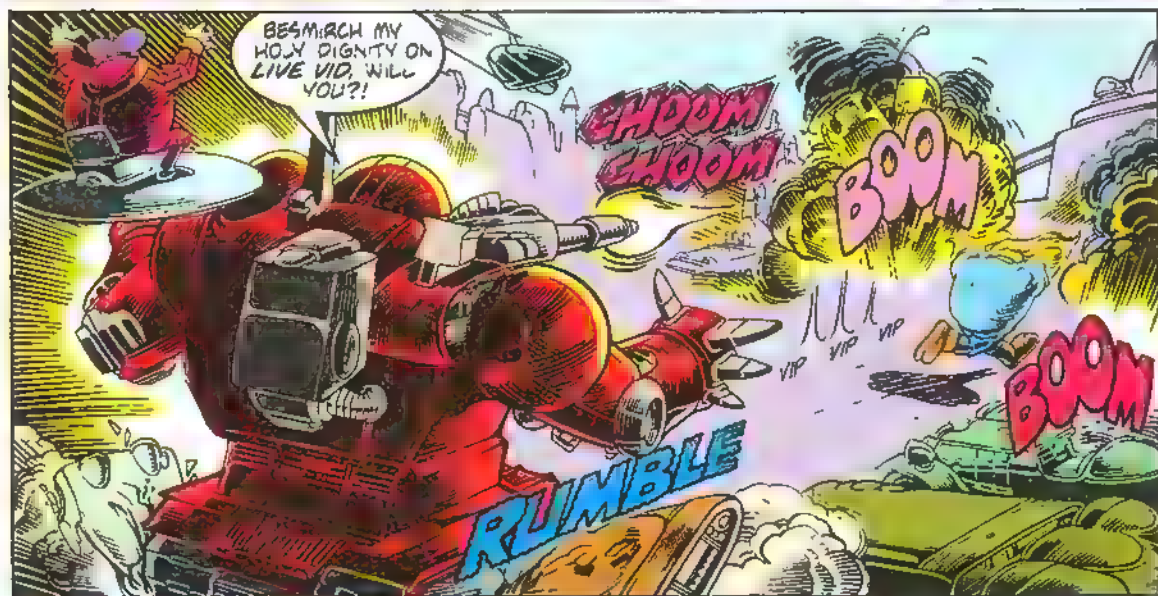
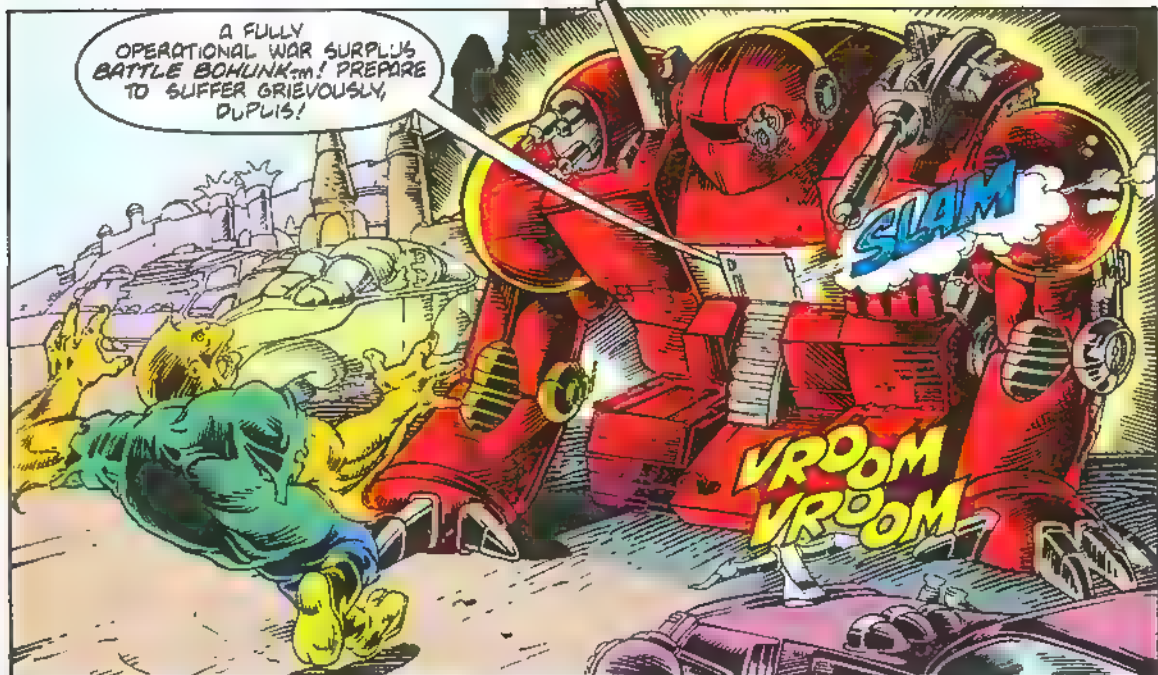
YOU! YOU BUM! STIFF! YOU CROAKER. I PUT \$500 ON YOU IN THE NORTH AM HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING TITLE, OPEN DIVISION, AND YOU LAID DOWN LIKE A DOORMAT!











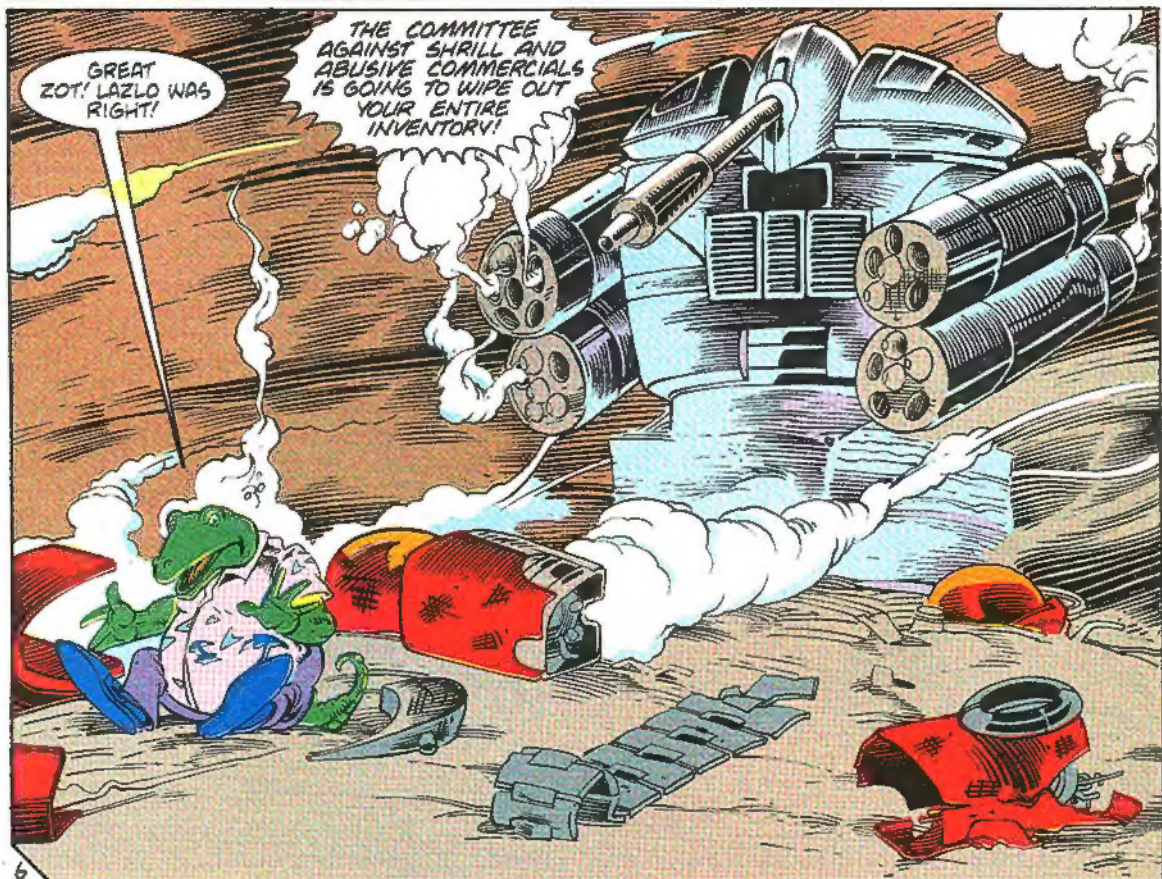




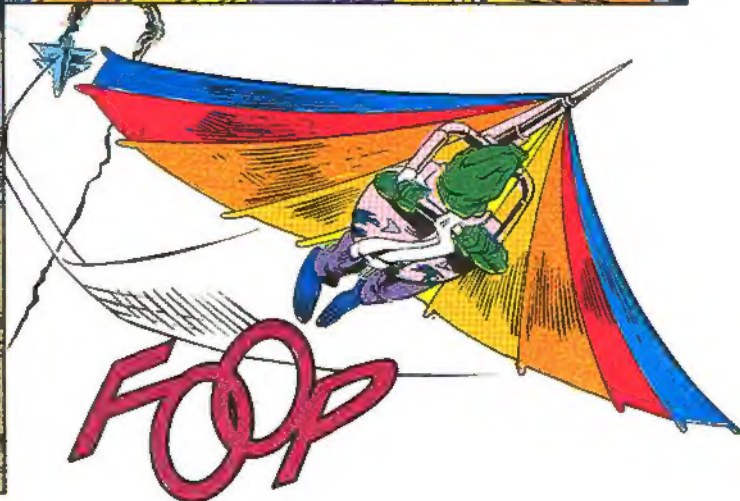
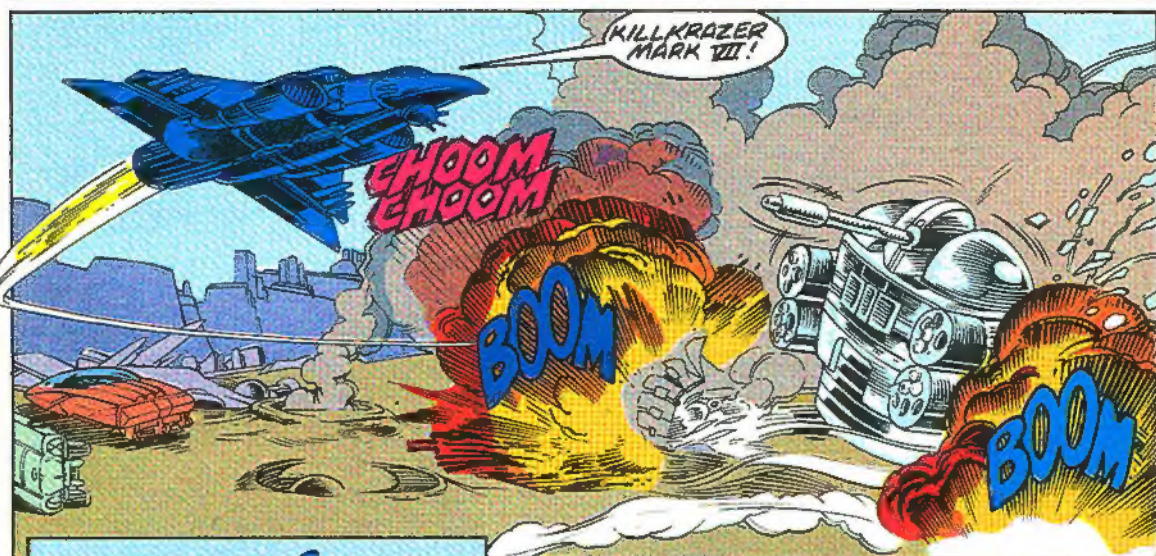
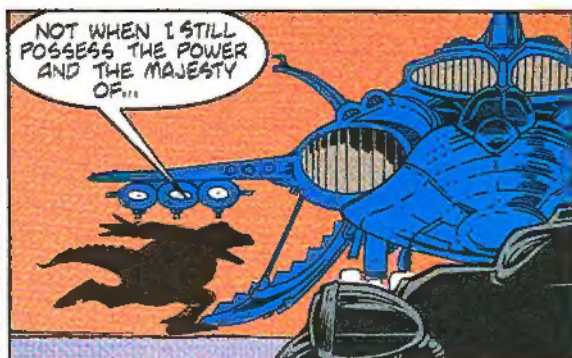
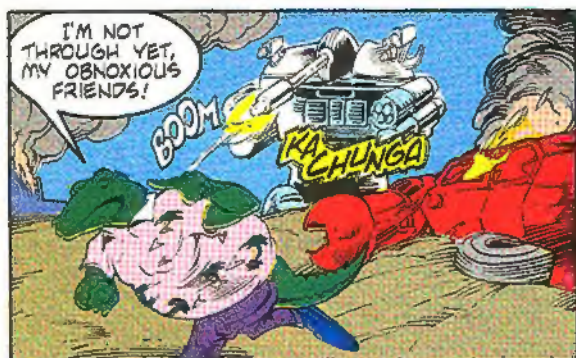




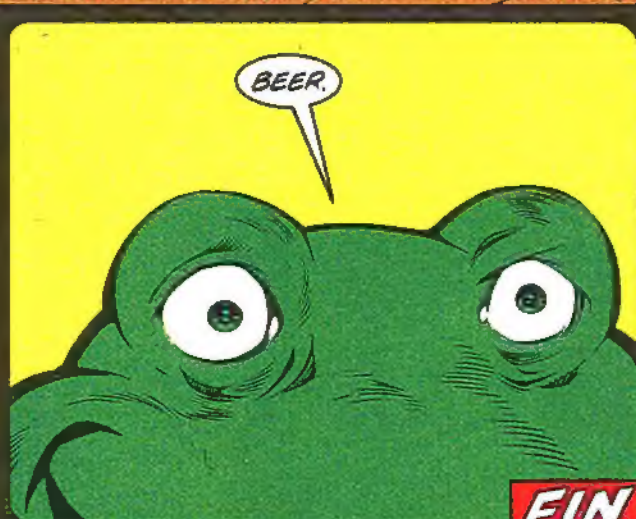
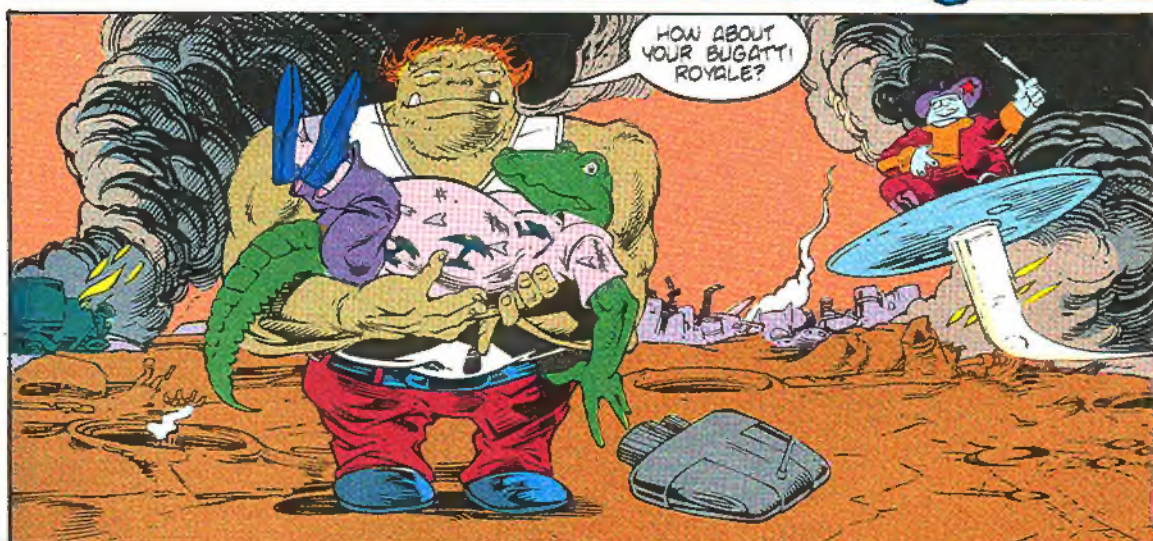
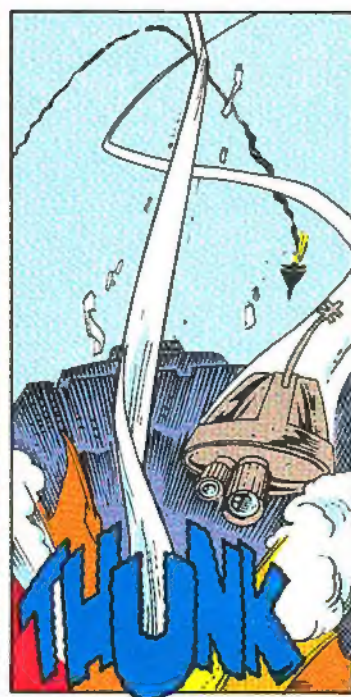
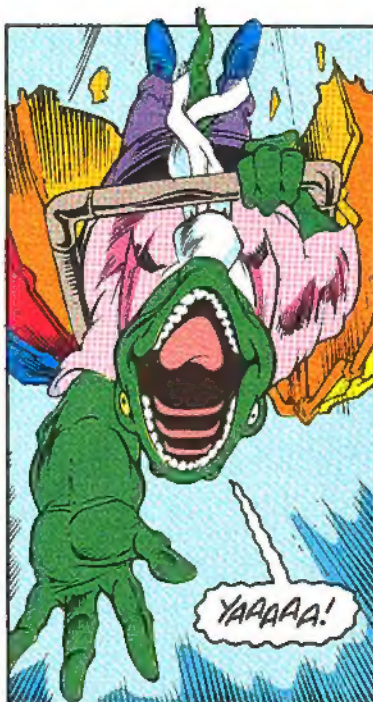
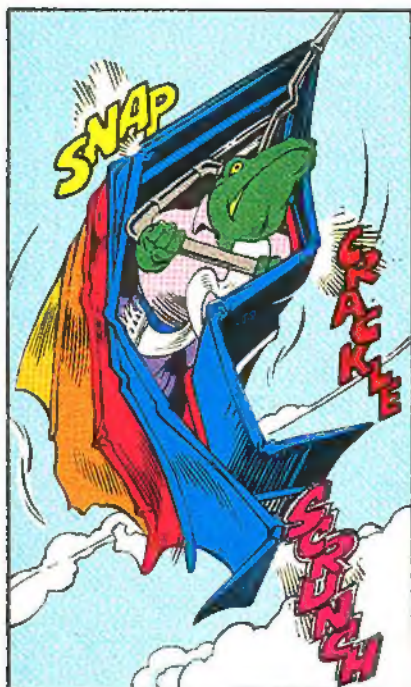
**KA-BOOM!**











**FIN**